



London

THE HEALTH OF WATFORD 1973



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1973

A. SHAW

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Medical Officer of Health

K. H. MARSDEN

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30239874>

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER & LICENSING COMMITTEE 1972–1973

Chairman:	Councillor R. S. Horner
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Mrs. J. H. G. Green

Members:

Alderman D. A. L. Eccleshall	Councillor B. Cordell
Alderman J. S. Oliver	Councillor D. B. Griffiths, A.C.A.
Alderman W. T. H. Price, S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.	Councillor R. W. Jackson
Alderman P. A. Wilson	Councillor K. D. Moulds
Councillor A. W. Bonney	Councillor A. H. Naylor
Councillor Miss R. Brian, B.Sc.(Econ.)	Councillor N. H. Tyrwhitt, B.Sc.(Lond.)
Councillor J. S. Bryden, F.Inst.L.Ex.	

PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER & LICENSING COMMITTEE 1973–1974

Chairman:	Councillor N. H. Tyrwhitt, B.Sc.(Lond.)
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Mrs. J. H. G. Green

Members:

Alderman Mrs. H. M. Dodd	Councillor B. Cordell
Alderman J. S. Oliver	Councillor D. B. Griffiths, A.C.A.
Alderman W. T. H. Price, S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.	Councillor R. W. Jackson
Alderman P. A. Wilson	Councillor K. D. Moulds
Councillor A. W. Bonney	Councillor A. H. Naylor
Councillor Miss R. Brian, B.Sc (Econ.)	Councillor M. D. Rivers
Councillor J. S. Bryden, F.Inst.L.Ex.	

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A. Shaw, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Public Health Department, Town Hall, Watford.

Phone: Watford 26400

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

F. Barasi, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector

K. H. Marsden, F.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

G. F. Willcox, F.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5.

District Public Health Inspectors

J. L. Willoughby	1, 3, 4, 5.	M. J. O'Brien, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3.
T. B. Rosamond	1, 3, 4.	P. Bailey, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3.
(Appointed 1.2.73)		P. D. Wright, M.A.P.H.I.	2.

Senior Meat Inspector

J. L. McKenzie, A.M.P.H.I. 1, 3, 6.

Authorised Meat Inspectors

J. O'Brien, M.A.M.I. 7 Brian Christie, M.A.M.I. 7

Student Public Health Inspectors

A. Edmunds G. Norfolk (Resigned 31.10.73)

Chief Clerk

M. Sherlock

Senior Clerk

M. Johnson

Clerks

D. Roberts O. Topping B. Maxfield M. Smith

1. Certificate, Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors Joint Board.
2. Diploma, Public Health Inspectors Examination Board.
3. Meat and Other Foods Certificate, Royal Society of Health.
4. Certificate of Sanitary Science, Royal Society of Health.
5. Diploma in Smoke Inspection, Royal Society of Health.
6. Higher Certificate of the Institute of Meat.
7. Certificate in Meat Inspection — Royal Society of Health.

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Watford.

August, 1974

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is my final report as your Medical Officer of Health and it has been unavoidably delayed because of the extra work consequent on reorganisation, both of local government and of the National Health Service. There will be no further reports of this nature over my signature but under the terms of the reorganisation it will remain my right as your medical adviser to have direct access to any of your committees when matters arise concerning the public health. This is not a situation which is likely to arise very often but I take this opportunity of reminding members of its possibility and also to express the hope that because I am no longer directly employed by the Council members will be no less free than in the past in seeking advice on public health matters which concern them.

As in the past problems will continue to arise in relation to infectious disease, medical aspects of rehousing, staff health and the very large area of general environmental hazards. I would stress that these are my functions and that enquiries and complaints about the health service in general should be directed to the Regional and Area Health Authorities, the District Management Team and the Family Practitioner Committees and that representations on such matters should properly be referred to the Community Health Council.

The vital statistics of this borough in 1973 are given with commentary in the body of this report. Except for the birth rate which is higher, all of the other significant figures are lower. The stillbirth rate and perinatal mortality rates are particularly low and even taking into account the statistical variations which are possible when calculating rates from small population figures are an indication of the excellence of the maternity services and a reflection of the fact that over 93% of all births take place in a well-equipped well-staffed maternity hospital.

Fluoridation in the Borough continued uninterrupted despite the sale of the water undertaking to the Colne Valley Water Company and the level of fluoride continues to be monitored by the Public Health Department. In view of the high standard of dental health of Watford school children it is perhaps appropriate here to pay tribute to two of your officers who worked strenuously to bring the Council's intention to fluoridate into operation. My predecessor, Dr. William Alcock became, over the course of the years an authority on this whole subject and his opinion was frequently sought. Your Water Engineer, John Collins in addition to his acclaimed expertise was an enthusiast and a very valuable publicist throughout the whole country. The Council has reason to be grateful to these former officers.

In closing this final report I would like to thank members of the Council and colleagues for their help, courtesy and consideration throughout the year. Mr. K. H. Marsden has, as in previous years, proved to be a source of help, friendship and expert knowledge and I am especially grateful to him.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. SHAW

Medical Officer of Health

VITAL STATISTICS

Births	There were 1,297 births to Watford mothers in 1973 giving a standardised birth rate of 16.6 compared with 13.7 for England and Wales. 85 or 7% of all births were illegitimate. 1,230 or 95% of all births were in hospital. Over 40% of the mothers and babies were discharged by the seventh day and home care was continued by the domiciliary midwives.
Infant mortality	The infant mortality was 14 compared with a national figure of 17. 18 infants died before their first birthday and of these 13 died in the first month giving a neonatal mortality of 10 per 1,000 live births compared with a national figure of 11. There were 10 deaths in the first week of life giving an early neonatal mortality of 8 per 1,000. With the exception of a 3 week old baby who died at home from gastro-enteritis, the other children who died were either premature, had congenital anomalies or suffered respiratory distress.
Perinatal mortality	There were only 7 stillbirths giving a stillbirth rate of 5 per 1,000 births, live and still, compared with a national figure of 12. The perinatal mortality rate which is calculated by combining the stillbirth and early neonatal rates was thus 13 compared with the national figure of 21.
Death rate	861 Watford residents died giving a standardised death rate of 11.6 per 1,000 population compared with a national figure of 12.0. 74% of deaths occurred in residents aged 65 and over, 20% aged 45–64, leaving 6% under the age of 45 including children under the age of 1 year. A high proportion of deaths were due to cancer, ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease.
Cancers	There were 207 deaths from cancer, 64 (30%) being due to cancer of the lung; 27 died under the age of 65. Health education measures seem powerless to have any effect on smoking habits. The only hope is that health education in schools will have an effect on the young, and so deter them from starting the habit. There were 26 deaths from cancer of the intestines, 17 from cancer of the stomach and 20 from cancer of the breast. 8 people under the age of 45 died from cancer.
Ischaemic heart disease	There were 166 deaths from ischaemic heart disease, (191 in 1972), 40 residents being under the age of 65.
Cerebrovascular disease	Strokes caused 113 deaths, 99 deaths being over the age of 65.
Other causes	There were 13 deaths from motor vehicle accidents; 9 under the age of 34 years, mostly males, and 15 from other accidents. There were 2 deaths from suicide and 1 death from influenza.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number and age distribution of cases of infectious disease, excluding tuberculosis, notified in 1973 is shown in Table VIII.

Measles There were 386 cases of measles in 1973 compared with 66 in 1972.

As predicted last year the pattern of an epidemic every other year seems to be returning but numbers of cases have been greatly reduced since the introduction of measles vaccination. Prior to vaccination the last epidemic year was 1967 when 1,632 cases occurred. Since vaccination the highest number of cases was 189 in 1971. The vaccination take up rate shows no signs of improving and unless the manufacturers can produce a vaccine which does not cause reactions the rate is not likely to improve significantly despite vigorous health education.

Infective hepatitis There were 10 cases of infective hepatitis compared with 15 in 1972 and 14 in 1971. All but one case occurred in residents over the age of 25.

Malaria There were six cases of malaria all contracted abroad.

Other diseases There were four cases of dysentery, 21 cases of scarlet fever and one case of whooping cough.

Tuberculosis There were 27 cases of tuberculosis notified, again a fair proportion of them Asian patients. 16 were respiratory and 11 non-respiratory cases.

Food poisoning There were two major outbreaks of food poisoning during the year in the course of two months.

24 cases occurred in an episode at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Shrodells Wing, Watford General Hospital and the causative agent in this case was salmonella typhimurium. Exhaustive investigation of food remaining failed to reveal any pathogens and close questioning of all people having lunch there showed no apparent common cause. Three of the food handlers preparing the meal (an outside caterer and not the hospital kitchen) were subsequently found to be excreting the organism but whether this was the cause of the outbreak or its effect is not known.

The second outbreak occurred at Watford Grammar School for Girls. 107 children and staff were affected, 57 of them Watford residents. The cause was readily identified as being salmonella bredeney in frozen chicken which had not been allowed sufficient time to thaw resulting in inadequate cooking so that the food poisoning organisms present in the carcasses were not killed off. The error was compounded by allowing the chicken to cool too slowly, thus permitting the organisms to multiply.

This should be a salutary warning to all cooks, whether at home or in catering establishments. Frozen poultry should be allowed to thaw completely; it should be cooked well and if it is not to be eaten straight away it should be cooled rapidly in a refrigerator. As so many birds are infected by food poisoning organisms, largely as a result of infected feeding materials, the carving block and the carving knives for raw carcasses should be thoroughly cleansed before using them for other foodstuffs because

it is easy to transfer organisms from the bird's giblets and abdominal cavity to cooked meats or pies for example.

In both of the outbreaks a number of people were quite seriously ill and two were admitted to hospital. Young children or elderly persons receiving large doses in this way could well have died.

The second outbreak caused a great deal of work for all of the public health inspectors to the extent that most routine work was suspended not only in Watford but in the surrounding four local authorities. All cases had to be checked to ascertain whether there were food handlers, nursery nurses etc. in the family and advice given on hygiene so that the disease would not spread. It is pleasing to record that there was only one secondary case from the primary wave of sufferers. The Watford Public Health Laboratory became so overloaded with work that it was necessary to send specimens to Luton for bacteriological examination. I am grateful to Dr. A. T. Willis, Director of the Luton Public Health Laboratory for his willing assistance.

There were a further 25 separate cases of food poisoning in 23 of which salmonellae were isolated. Nine of the cases were contracted abroad. A synopsis of the cases is set out in Table IV in the Appendix.

Smallpox There were two deaths from smallpox in neighbouring Harrow. The ripples from this sad event spread throughout London and South West Hertfordshire where there were a number of primary and secondary contacts requiring vaccination and daily surveillance. The whole department was extremely busy for three weeks.

The Commission of Enquiry, whose report appeared just before this annual report was being written, had some scathing remarks to make about the way in which the medical authorities conducted the control of the outbreak. I would like to think that if the cases had occurred in Watford that there would have been no reason for such strictures. A smallpox control plan exists and is reviewed annually; all staff at risk are vaccinated at regular intervals and whenever a call is received from a doctor about a suspicious rash I aim to be on my way to see this patient within 30 minutes, no matter what the time. Protective clothing and specimen collecting apparatus are to hand and a laboratory result can be available in a matter of hours. There were in fact several such calls during the period of emergency and in addition to seeing such patients my deputy or I traced and vaccinated contacts at any hour.

During the course of the outbreak Britain was declared a smallpox-infected area and hundreds of holiday makers required vaccination. Under the circumstances available medical resources in the department had to be directed to contact tracing and surveillance and it was unreal to expect us to take on the task of vaccinating other people. However, hundreds of people passed through the department to have international certificates of vaccination authenticated.

It is a pleasure to record my thanks to Dr. B. R. Eaton, Director of the Watford Public Health Laboratory, Dr. P. Watney Roe, Chest Physician, for their co-operation, help and advice through the year.

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS, NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

							1973	
Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,275	
Estimated mid-year population	..	..	..	..	..	..	78,180	
Number of inhabited dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	26,365	
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£15,462,265	
Sum represented by 1p rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£150,300	
								Average 1963/72
Number of births	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,297	1,428
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.6	18.7
Area comparability factor	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.99	-
Standardised birth rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.4	18.2
Number of illegitimate births	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	107
Percentage of illegitimate births	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.0	7.4
Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	861	878
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.0	11.5
Area comparability factor	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.05	-
Standardised death rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6	11.0
Natural increase of population (excess of births over deaths in year)							436	550
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	26
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	17.8
Number of deaths of infants under 1 month	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	19
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 1 month per 1,000 live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	13.1
Number of deaths of infants under 1 week	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	17
Early neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	11.8
Number of stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	20
Stillbirth rate (rate per 1,000 births, live and still)	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	13.5
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and early neonatal deaths per 1,000 births, live and still)	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	25.1
Number of maternal deaths (including abortions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	0.3
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	0.21

TABLE II

TABLE SHOWING VARIOUS STATISTICAL DATA FOR WATFORD 1963-1972

Year	Population	Number of Births	Crude Birth Rate	Area comparability factor	Standardised Birth Rate	Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Area comparability factor	Standardised Death Rate	Natural increased Population
1963	75,780	1,399	18.5	0.98	18.1	909	12.0	0.98	11.8	490
1964	76,340	1,474	19.3	0.98	18.9	845	11.1	0.98	10.9	629
1965	76,470	1,518	19.9	0.98	19.5	833	10.9	0.95	10.4	685
1966	76,350	1,499	19.6	0.98	19.2	882	11.6	0.96	11.1	617
1967	76,310	1,485	19.5	0.98	19.1	869	11.4	0.93	10.6	616
1968	76,790	1,429	18.6	0.98	18.2	883	11.5	0.95	10.9	546
1969	76,700	1,378	18.3	0.98	17.6	887	11.6	0.95	11.0	491
1970	76,740	1,400	18.2	0.98	17.8	901	11.7	0.95	11.1	499
1971	78,010	1,427	18.3	0.98	17.9	876	11.2	0.95	10.6	551
1972	77,690	1,274	16.4	0.96	15.7	895	11.5	0.99	11.4	379
Average		1,428	18.7		18.2	878	11.5		11.0	550

Year	Deaths under 1 year	Infants mortality rate	Number of deaths of infants under 1' month	Neonatal mortality	Number of deaths of infants under 1 week	Early Neonatal mortality	Number of stillbirths	Stillbirth rate	Perinatal mortality	Number of maternal deaths	Maternal mortality Rate
1963	24	17.2	16	11.4	15	10.7	23	16.2	26.7	1	0.70
1964	29	19.7	23	15.6	20	13.6	20	13.4	26.8	-	0.00
1965	30	19.8	24	15.8	21	13.8	24	15.6	29.2	-	0.00
1966	28	18.7	18	12.0	15	10.0	18	11.9	21.8	1	0.70
1967	35	23.6	30	20.2	28	18.9	26	17.2	35.7	-	0.00
1968	25	17.0	19	13.3	18	12.6	15	10.0	23.0	-	0.00
1969	20	15.0	15	11.0	13	9.0	18	13.0	22.0	-	0.00
1970	18	13.0	14	10.0	12	9.0	21	15.0	23.0	-	0.00
1971	20	14.0	16	11.0	13	9.0	14	10.0	19.0	1	0.70
1972	26	20.0	14	11.0	14	11.0	17	13.0	24.0	-	0.00
Average	26	17.8	19	13.1	17	11.8	20	13.5	25.1	0.3	0.21

TABLE III

**COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS OF WATFORD AND
ENGLAND AND WALES**

	Watford	England and Wales
Live Birth rate	16.6	13.7
Area comparability factor	0.99	1.00
Standardised birth rate	16.4	13.7
Stillbirth rate	5	12
Infant mortality rate	14	17
Legitimate	11	16
Illegitimate	59	22
Neonatal mortality rate	10	11
Early neonatal mortality rate	8	10
Perinatal mortality rate	13	21
Maternal mortality rate	0.0	-
Death rate	11.0	12.0
Area comparability factor	1.05	1.00
Standardised death rate	11.6	12.0

TABLE IV

MAIN CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS 1973

Cause of death	Number under 4 weeks of age	Number between 4 weeks and 1 year of age	TOTAL
Pneumonia	-	3	3
Other diseases, respiratory system ..	-	1	1
Enteritis or other diarrhoeal conditions	1	1	1
Congenital anomalies	2	-	2
Birth injury, difficult labour etc. ..	6	1	7
Other causes (mainly prematurity) ..	4	-	4
TOTAL	13	5	18

TABLE V

DEATHS 1973

Cause of death	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Bacillary Dysentery	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Amoebiasis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm buccal cavity etc.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm oesophagus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Malignant neoplasm stomach	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	2
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
Malignant neoplasm intestine	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4	4
	F	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	9
Malignant neoplasm larynx	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	M	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	19	23	7
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	7	-
Malignant neoplasm breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	3	4	6
Malignant neoplasm uterus	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1
Malignant neoplasm prostate	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2
Leukaemia	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	M	28	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	4	10	7
	F	26	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	6	6	10
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Diabetes mellitus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Other endocrine etc. diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cause of death	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mental disorders	M	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Multiple sclerosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hypertensive heart disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
Ischaemic heart disease	M	98	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	24	29	37
	F	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	17	43
Other forms of heart disease	M	20	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	2	14
	F	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	19
Cerebrovascular disease	M	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	6	20
	F	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	19	54
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	8
	F	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	17
Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	M	52	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	19	28
	F	57	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	12	39
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	9	9
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Peptic ulcer	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Appendicitis	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Cause of death	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Cirrhosis of liver	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other diseases, genito- urinary system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of musculo- skeletal system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Congenital anomalies	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Difficult delivery and/or anoxic condition	M	6	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	M	9	-	-	-	1	2	4	1	-	1	-	-
	F	4	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
All other accidents	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	5
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other external causes	M	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	437	10	2	-	3	7	9	9	32	77	124	164
	F	424	3	3	3	-	1	2	2	22	39	99	250

TABLE VI

HEALTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1968
PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS
NOTIFICATION OF FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases now to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health are :—

Acute encephalitis	Leprosy	Scarlet fever
Acute meningitis	Leptospirosis	Smallpox
Acute poliomyelitis	Malaria	Tetanus
Anthrax	Measles	Tuberculosis
Cholera	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Typhoid fever
Diphtheria	Paratyphoid fever	Typhus
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	Plague	Whooping cough
Infective jaundice	Relapsing fever	Yellow fever

To this list the local authority should add any disease made notifiable in its area under an order made under Section 147 of the Public Health Act 1936 or Section 52 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

TABLE VII

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN
(PERCENTAGE IMMUNISED)

	Children born in 1972 and vaccinated by 31.12.73			
	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Measles
Watford	68.2	69.2	70.4	38.2
Hertfordshire	70.3	72.0	72.2	42.6

TABLE VIII

NUMBER OF CASES AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN WATFORD 1973

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Malaria
Under 1 year	22	-	-	1	-	-	-
1—	40	-	-	2	-	-	-
2—	35	-	1	2	-	-	-
3—	34	-	2	-	1	-	-
4—	46	-	3	1	-	-	-
5—9	192	1	8	-	1	-	-
10—14	10	-	3	30	1	-	1
15—24	4	-	1	18	-	1	2
25 & over	3	-	3	52	1	9	3
TOTAL	386	1	21	106	4	10	6

TABLE IX

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	RESPIRATORY		MENINGES & CNS		OTHERS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—	-	-	-	-	-	-
2—4	-	1	-	-	1	-
5—9	1	-	-	-	-	-
10—14	-	-	-	-	-	1
15—19	-	-	-	-	1	-
20—24	-	-	-	-	2	-
25—34	5	3	-	-	3	1
35—44	2	1	-	-	1	1
45—54	-	-	-	-	-	-
55—64	1	-	-	-	-	-
65—74	1	-	-	-	-	-
75 & over	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	5	-	-	8	3

TABLE X
RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE – 1973

Month	Rainfall	Day Temperatures °C	
	mm	Highest	Lowest
January	20.1	12	4
February	17.2	13	5
March	11.0	17	8
April	60.6	18	8
May	64.2	24	11
June	48.9	32	14
July	53.0	26	16
August	45.1	29	17
September	70.7	27	13
October	19.5	20	9
November	24.4	15	– 5
December	51.4	12	– 4
TOTAL	486.1		

486.1 mm equals 70% of average rainfall (693 mm).

REPORT ON THE WATER SUPPLY

1. The supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year.
2. 8,584,591 cubic metres were supplied during the year averaging 23,519 cubic metres per day and the supply on the maximum day (18th July 1973) was 25,107 cubic metres.
3. The population supplied was approximately 78,749 and the average consumption for domestic, trade and industrial purposes was 298 litres per head per day. 43 new supplies were connected during the year.
4. All water going into supply was softened to approximately 200 mg/l.
5. Fluoridation was carried out at both pumping stations in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Security. The fluoride content of the supply was regularly tested and shown to be at the optimum level of 1 mg/l.
6. Sterilisation by super-chlorination and de-chlorination of all water supplied was carried out at both pumping stations. Chlorine residuals were regularly tested to ensure that the sterilisation processes were operating correctly.
7. Regular bacteriological analyses were made of the water drawn from various parts of the supply system, and of the raw and untreated water from both pumping stations, and these indicated that the supply was at all times of a satisfactory bacteriological quality.
8. Chemical analysis also indicated satisfactory chemical quality of the untreated and treated water. There was no plumbo-solvency.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Introduction This is a synopsis of the work that has been done by the public health inspectors during 1973. In the cause of brevity the scope of the inspectors work can best be illustrated by reporting on the numbers and types of inspections made, but in reality this report is about vitally important factors in our lives; it is about our homes, our workplaces and the environment, the food we eat and the air we breathe all in the context of public health.

In January I submitted a comprehensive report to the Council on air and noise pollution in Watford. One result was a decision by the Council to start a noise monitoring scheme in Watford; the findings of the survey that was carried out during July are summarised in this report. It was refreshing to be able to press on with the Council's programme to clear Watford of chimney smoke without a halt being caused by another fuel crisis. It is intended to accelerate the programme so that it is completed by 1978.

Greater attention is now being focused on toxic wastes and heavy metals in the environment. Although lead pollution in Watford is not expected to be high, it is such a danger to children that as a precautionary measure an investigation into lead levels was commenced during the year.

In recent years we have had so little poisoning from food eaten in Watford that we had cause to believe that success was attending the food hygiene campaign; the tenfold increase in food poisoning during 1973, which was quite unexpected, clearly demonstrates the need to intensify the campaign.

Local Government reorganisation will bring no territorial boundary changes to Watford, thus the town is one of a minority that is being spared the traumatic upheaval associated with the amalgamation of local authorities; concurrently there will be a major transfer of powers to other authorities that will have a more profound effect on many services provided for the public.

The new District Council has decided that the community can best be served by maintaining within the management structure a separate Public Health Department whose principal function will be the protection of the public from the ever changing hazards to health in our environment. It is also important that strong links be forged with officers of the new National Health Service, not only for the control of infectious diseases, but also for the active promotion of good health.

I have worked for almost 29 years as the Chief or Deputy Chief Inspector of the Borough and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and all their predecessors for the unfailing support and encouragement they have given to me and the work of the department.

I pay tribute to all the Chief Officers for their courtesy and help; I am particularly grateful to Dr. Shaw for the guidance and ready assistance I have received from him at all times during the 5½ years he has served the Borough as Medical Officer of Health. Finally, my sincere thanks to all my own staff for their enthusiasm and staunch support.

K. H. MARSDEN
Chief Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

Unfit dwellings Two dwellings were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation; a Closing Order was made on the basement flat at 111 Gladstone Road. The owner of The Lodge, Kytes Estate, put forward a scheme to convert the premises into two self-contained flats. Closing Orders which had been made on 34 Bedford Street and 7 Avenue Terrace were determined when the houses were repaired and modernised.

Following discussions with the owners of three houses that were occupied by more than one household undertakings were given to the Council that the second floor rooms in the houses that were not provided with adequate means of escape in case of fire would cease to be used for human habitation.

Disrepair and improvement The housing survey that was made by the public health inspectors during 1971 revealed that the general standard of repair of houses in Watford is good. Three quarters of the privately owned dwellings are now owner-occupied.

The figures in the housing survey closely correspond with those in the report of the 1971 Census which show that there were 1,390 households without a bath; 1,205 households without hot water and 1,860 with an outside w.c. only (95.8% of the dwellings were occupied by one household). Since that date 477 houses have been improved by way of improvement grant.

Improvement Grants Applications for improvement grants are dealt with by the Director of Technical Services. Up to 31st December 1973 1,859 improvement grants have been made.

Enforcement of improvements The tenants of ten houses made representations to the Council under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 with a view to the owners being forced to improve the houses. In all but one case immediate improvement notices were authorised.

Council houses By the end of the year work was almost completed on the modernisation to Parker Morris standard of 829 houses on the Harebreaks Estate.

General Improvement Areas During June the Council considered a report by the National Building Agency on six areas in Watford that could be designated general improvement areas as a result of which the Council agreed in principle to a General Improvement Area pilot scheme. The Director of Technical Services was instructed to carry out initial creative planning work to compare the potential for environmental improvement of a few selected areas in the town. These have been discussed with officers of the Department of the Environment who are favourably disposed towards three of the areas under study.

Overcrowding There is very little overcrowding of houses in Watford. Most of the overcrowding that does occur is caused by the sub-letting of rooms and most of these are occupied by immigrants. During 1973 the Council made six Directions under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1961 to control the number of persons who may live in houses that are occupied by more than one household. There are now 82 houses in the town that are covered by Directions. From time to time the houses are inspected, if necessary during the late evening, to ensure that there is compliance with the Directions.

Caravans There are four licensed caravan sites in Watford each of which is licensed for one caravan; two of the sites are used by travelling showmen as winter quarters.

The Council have granted permission for land in their ownership at Holywell to be used by the County Council as a temporary site for four “itinerant” caravans. Watford is largely a built up area and there is no land that is suitable for a permanent site.

FOOD

Food Hygiene Apart from daily visits to the slaughterhouse, inspections were made of food premises of all kinds and of market and other stalls and of vehicles, to check compliance with the relevant hygiene regulations.

A firm of farmers/butchers and their driver were convicted, respectively, of the offences of using a dirty vehicle for transporting meat and exposing the meat to risk of contamination (Table VII).

Food hygiene was the subject of lectures given by public health inspectors to various organisations and to persons employed in handling food.

Food Inspection (a) Meat

Meat inspection was carried on satisfactorily during the year. The slaughterhouse is now approved for export of meat to other members of the Common Market.

The slaughterhouse manager has continued to permit students of meat inspection to gain practical experience in the abattoir. Such facilities are very limited and local authorities over a wide area are indebted to him for the opportunity for their staff to receive the required training.

Slaughter of Animals Act

Twenty-two licences to slaughter all classes of food animals (except horses) were issued.

(b) Milk

Ten complaints were received of dirt or foreign matter in milk. Four further complaints referred to the condition of the milk. The Public Health Committee authorised legal proceedings in two cases (Table VII) and in another case caused a warning letter to be sent.

(c) Unsound Food

Ninety-four complaints were received of food (other than milk) sold in an unsatisfactory condition. 54 complaints referred to foreign bodies, 18 of which were in bakery products. Staleness, mould growth or decomposition accounted for 36 reports. Four complaints could not be substantiated. All were thoroughly investigated and, wherever possible, means were sought to prevent a recurrence of the unsatisfactory circumstances which led to the complaint.

The Public Health Committee authorised legal proceedings (Table VII) in 9 cases reported to them and instructed warning letters to be sent in 6 cases.

The most remarkable complaint was that of a large steel bolt found in a pork pie.

Composition of Food and Drugs Informal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. J. D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.A., M.Chem.A., F.R.I.C., as follows :—

Food Samples: 135

Drug Samples: 17

Routine food samples included minced meat, sausages and salami, yoghurt, ice cream and lollies, vegetarian and baby foods, beverages and sauces.

Drug samples consisted of medicines for the relief of indigestion, headaches and coughs.

Importers of salami were notified that the products contained preservative and should be labelled accordingly. One contained an excessive amount of preservative. Six butchers were reminded of the necessity to declare the presence of preservative in sausages.

All the other routine food and drug samples were satisfactory.

Of samples submitted because of complaints from consumers or other special circumstances the following were found to be unsatisfactory :—

Milk contained cat's urine (a prosecution in respect of this complaint was dismissed).
Rusted iron was found in bread and cheese, burnt sugar in a sweet and some ham had been 'cured' without salt.

PLACES OF WORK

Factories In the great majority of factories in Watford mechanical power is used and almost all the health provisions of the Factories Act are, therefore, enforced by the Factory Inspectorate.

From time to time factories are visited by a public health inspector in connection with health legislation which is enforceable by the Council, namely :—

- (i) food hygiene in canteens and in food factories;
- (ii) atmospheric pollution from chimneys and factory processes;
- (iii) noise and other nuisances;
- (iv) the storage of petrol and petroleum mixtures;
- (v) sanitary conveniences.

A summary of the inspections made under the Factories Act and of the “outwork” which is done in workers’ homes is set out in Table XI in the Appendix.

**Offices, Shops and
Railway Premises
Act 1936**

1. Registration and Inspection

The number of premises in Watford newly registered during the year and on the register at 31st December 1973 is shown in Table VIII.

In considering the figures it must be borne in mind that many persons are employed in the specified classes of business which are not registered by the Local Authority, namely :—

- (1) Businesses in which only the employer’s relatives work;
- (2) Businesses in which employees work less than 21 hours per week;
- (3) Businesses which are registered by the Factory Inspector, e.g. offices in factories, Local Authority and Government Buildings, certain railway premises, etc.

During the year 228 general inspections of registered premises were made by the public health inspectors and 377 other visits and inspections.

2. Accidents

Reported accidents increased from 40 to 47 — these were all from organisations large enough to have staff responsible for this duty. Nearly all the accidents were of a minor nature.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Industrial Pollution There are no heavy industrial processes in Watford causing serious pollution; nearly all the boiler plants are modern installations burning gas or oil. Only 4 excessive smoke emissions from chimneys were recorded; action was taken on four occasions to stop nuisances from frequent bonfires on factory and commercial premises.

Smoke Control Areas At long last the Council have been able to make progress on their smoke control programme uninterrupted by shortages of smokeless fuels.

The "St. Mary's" ninth smoke control order came into operation on 1st October.

In April the Council made Orders in respect of the following two areas:—

Area No. 10 "Wiggenhall" of 83.5 hectares containing 916 dwellings and 139 other premises.

Area No.11 "Nascot" of 182.3 hectares containing 1,824 dwellings and 96 other premises.

Both the Orders were confirmed to come into operation on 1st October 1974.

Some 12,700 dwellings in 2,810 acres (1,137 hectares) are now covered by smoke control orders.

MISCELLANEOUS

Petroleum Storage The Chief Public Health Inspector is appointed by the Council as authorised officer for the purposes of the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts 1928 and 1936.

There has been a vast increase in the use of petroleum since 1928 and in the variety of low flash point solvents derived from petroleum, many of which are used by the printing industry in Watford. The law has been kept up to date by the making of Regulations — these are now extensive covering not only some 200 flammable liquids but also the transport of corrosive substances.

In April 1974 the responsibilities of the Borough Council under this legislation will be transferred to the Hertfordshire County Council and will become a function of the Fire Brigade.

In Watford there are 147 licensed premises.

Oil imports became restricted and petrol supplies became scarce. Late in November a Search Warrant was obtained and in company with the Police 20 gallons of petrol were found in the cellar of a dwelling house. The occupier was prosecuted under the Petroleum Consolidation Act 1928 for keeping the petrol on unlicensed premises and in unlabelled vessels. He was fined a total of £40.

Nuisances — General Most of the 1,016 complaints that were made during the year were about nuisances of one kind or another in or around the home. Four petitions were presented to the Council concerning: nuisances from a factory in a residential area; the noise from road traffic in another area; unswept streets and the deposit on the bank of the River Colne of smelly and unsightly dredgings.

Bonfires are a frequent cause of complaint; since the Council provides a comprehensive refuse collection service there is no need for the illwill between neighbours that they cause.

The Council considered complaints about colonies of feral cats and decided that there were too many difficulties for the Council to become involved in a destruction campaign. Action was, however, taken against the elderly occupier of a house who had so many cats that the house became revoltingly filthy; unfortunately this is a recurring condition in this house. There was another house where a Warrant to Enter had to be obtained for Council workmen to remove a large accumulation of filth. In this case legal proceedings were authorised against the young tenant.

A substantial part of the inspectors time is still devoted to the abatement of nuisances. Over 2,000 inspections were made mostly in connection with drainage, housing defects and accumulations of refuse but an increasing number were in respect of noise.

Noise There is an increasing awareness by the public that noise has become a serious pollutant of the environment. Investigations were made into 21 cases of noise nuisance most of which were remedied by way of informal action although it was necessary to take statutory action on two occasions.

In April the Council decided to initiate a noise monitoring scheme. This provides for the measurement of noise levels twice a year at 75 different sites on a lattice grid for the Ordnance

Survey covering almost the whole of the Borough; the lattice points being some 500 yards apart. The first survey was made during July using both manual and tape recording instruments. In the former method readings were taken for 1,000 seconds at 10 second intervals between 10.00am and 12 noon and 10.00pm and midnight at each site. In addition recordings were made covering a 24 hour period at 5 sites.

As expected, the survey confirmed that the main sources of noise in Watford are :—

1. Road Traffic

The M1 motorway passes through the North East corner of the Borough and is fed by traffic passing through the town. The sample sites adjoining the main traffic routes and the 24 hour site readings revealed particularly high noise levels.

Later in the year the Noise Insulation Regulations were made under the Land Compensation Act 1973 whereby the highway authority are empowered to pay compensation for insulation to dwellings where noise levels following new roadworks exceed L10 (18 hour) of 68 dBA. The survey indicates that noise levels adjoining several main traffic routes through Watford already exceed this standard.

2. Aircraft Movement

High level aircraft are often very noisy but they do not appear to constitute a serious nuisance to the great majority of the public in Watford. They did in fact make a significant contribution to the general noise level; as many as 4 aircraft have been recorded during a 15 minute sample period. Low level aircraft movements associated with Leavesden Aerodrome have given rise to complaints and these will be investigated by way of 24 hour surveys during 1974.

3. Industrial Noise

The main industry in the Borough is printing but the noise emissions from the large factories are fairly constant, are not excessive and have never caused complaints. The survey did not reveal high levels of noise from any factory.

4. Rail Traffic

The main LMR line passes through Watford. There are about 300 main line trains and 90 local trains during a 24 hour period and they do therefore make a significant contribution to the general noise climate of the town.

Conclusion

The July survey gave information against which future survey findings can be compared to establish whether there is a deterioration of the noise climate in Watford. The survey will be repeated during January 1974.

Poisonous Waste

There are no tipping sites for poisonous wastes in Watford nor, for that matter, any other wastes. Notifications under the Poisonous Wastes Act 1972 show that such wastes are removed from 21 factories and these are usually taken to disposal sites in Essex.

Early in September a considerable number of dead fish were found in the River Colne. A sample of the river water taken by the Thames Conservancy Board was found to contain the insecticide "Gamma B.H.C." which is highly toxic to fish. A large number of "empty" 5 gallon drums had recently been deposited on the bank of the river where it passes through an industrial estate; a residue in one of these contained a high percentage of "Gamma B.H.C.". It transpired that an insecticidal wood preservative had been kept in the drums; the labelling requirements of the Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme apply only to the safe use of pesticides in agriculture, food storage and related areas and do not apply to other pesticides. The Council made representations to the A.M.C. about the inadequacies of the legislation. The manufacturers of the insecticide readily responded to the Council's request that containers of all their insecticides bear warning notices in the same terms as those used for agricultural insecticides. The Council's legal advisers and Counsel felt there was no case to take to Court.

Shops Act 1950 The public health inspectors are also appointed as Shops Act Inspectors. As a general rule the condition of employment provisions of the Act are checked when shops are inspected under other legislation.

It has not been necessary to take legal proceedings under the closing hours provisions of the Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 One hundred and forty three infestations were dealt with during 1973, a decrease of 60 over 1972. However, the number of mice infestations dealt with again increased and in 1973, 242 infestations were reported, 35 more than in 1972. The figure for 1971 was 107 and for 1970, 64 and there is no clear indication as yet that this continual increase will vary in the next few years.

As reported in the last annual report the use of Warfarin for the destruction of mice is ineffective. One alternative, Alphachloralose, appeared to be the best mice poison available but had the disadvantage of needing an ambient temperature of below 60°F. before ensuring 100% fatality rate in the mice which had eaten the bait. A new product was introduced to the market in 1973 which is used with Warfarin. This product is Calciforal, which is in fact Vitamin D. Small quantities of vitamin D in the diet of rodents are essential to the maintenance of good health and adequate amounts are usually present in dietary fats. An excess of vitamin D produces dangerously high calcium levels and it is this fact that has been exploited in developing this new rodenticide. By combining the Warfarin and vitamin D in a single formulation, a rodenticide is therefore produced that causes death from the combined effects of too much vitamin D and too little vitamin K. The Rodent Operative reports a high level of success with this new rodenticide, in the treatment of both rat and mice infestations where previously Warfarin resistance was encountered. No doubt more new rodenticides will be introduced which will be even more effective and will aid the Rodent Operative in carrying out his duties more effectively.

During the year 118 wasps nests were destroyed.

Sewers likely to be rat infested are treated at least once a year by a firm of commercial contractors. Details of rat and mice infestations are set out in Table XII of the Appendix.

APPENDIX

TABLE I

RECORDS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1973

COMPLAINTS	..	..	..	..	..	1,016
DWELLINGS						
Public Health Act (disrepair)	..	..	..	..	..	281
Housing Act (disrepair)	..	..	..	..	..	315
Housing Act (improvement)	..	..	..	..	..	157
Housing Act (overcrowding)	..	..	..	..	..	433
Movable dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	50
PLACES OF WORK						
Power factories	..	..	..	..	..	89
Non-power factories	..	..	..	..	..	13
Building sites etc.	..	..	..	..	..	25
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963						
(a) Offices	..	..	..	..	..	63
(b) Retail Shops	..	..	..	..	..	141
(c) Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	..	..	..	..	..	18
(d) Catering establishments and canteens	..	..	..	..	..	6
(e) Fuel Storage Depots	..	..	..	..	..	-
Revisits	..	..	..	..	..	377
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	29
FOOD						
Food Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	298
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	185
Food factories	..	..	..	..	..	69
Ice-cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	87
Restaurants, canteens, public houses	..	..	..	..	..	460
Retail food shops	..	..	..	..	..	481
Public market	..	..	..	..	..	46
Mobile shops, stalls	..	..	..	..	..	31
Other food premises	..	..	..	..	..	39
Food (adulteration) samples	..	..	..	..	..	145
Food (bacteriological) samples	..	..	..	..	..	6
AIR						
Industrial smoke control	..	..	..	..	..	75
Smoke control areas	..	..	..	..	..	860

Cont'd.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT						
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	420
Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	428
Insect pests	..	..	..	..	..	105
Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	29
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	851
Infectious disease (including food poisoning)	..	..	..	..	..	451
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	10
Swimming pools	..	..	..	..	..	19
OTHER ACTS						
Pests Act	..	..	..	..	..	103
Animals Act	..	..	..	..	..	45
Petroleum Acts	..	..	..	..	..	170
MISCELLANEOUS						
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	311
Attendance at Court	..	..	..	..	..	17
Lectures	..	..	..	..	..	16
Unclassified visits	..	..	..	..	..	287
Water samples	..	..	..	..	..	42
Noise survey	..	..	..	..	..	457
Total visits and inspections					..	<u>8,500</u>

TABLE II

HOUSING

Number of new dwellings erected by the Council during 1973	..	Nil
Number of new dwellings erected by private enterprise during 1973	..	21
Total number of dwellings built by Council since 1945	..	5,530
Total number of dwellings built by private enterprise since 1945	..	3,655
Number of Council dwellings occupied on 31st December 1973	..	6,906

TABLE III

FOOD

Types of Food Premises within the Borough at 31st December 1973

Retail Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	277
Hotels and Public Houses		..	..	..	..	51
Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	74
Industrial and Commercial Canteens			..	..	..	59
School Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	43
Clubs	..	..	..	..	..	21
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	10
Wholesale Food Merchants		..	..	..	..	21
Food Factories	..	..	..	..	..	4
Slaughterhouse	..	..	..	..	..	1

All these premises comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, where applicable.

TABLE IV

FOOD POISONING

	No. of outbreaks or sporadic cases	No. of cases notified or ascertained	Organism responsible	Food suspected	Notes
Family outbreaks	2	6	Salmonella Typhimurium	Unknown	
General outbreaks	1 1	24 57*	Salmonella Typhimurium Salmonella Bredeney	Unknown Frozen Chicken	* In addition 50 persons outside Watford became ill.
Sporadic cases	1 1 1 1 1 2 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 2 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Salmonella Heidelberg Salmonella Poona Salmonella Kottbus Salmonella Ibadan Salmonella London Salmonella Senftenberg Salmonella Montevideo Salmonella Reading Salmonella Enteritidis Salmonella Agona Salmonella Coley Park Salmonella Thompson Salmonella Livingstone Salmonella Typhimurium Salmonella not typed Salmonella not typed	Unknown Unknown * Unknown Unknown Unknown Unknown * Unknown * Unknown Unknown * Unknown Unknown * Unknown Unknown Unknown Unknown Unknown * Unknown *	* Indicates that the infection was contracted abroad.

TABLE V

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED
IN WATFORD DURING 1973

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	11,631	966	159	16,270	60,021
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	11	7	6	58
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3,507	402	60	1,937	20,782
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	30.16	42.75	42.14	11.94	34.66
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	144
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.03	-	-	-	0.24
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses in which Cysticercosis was found	45	4	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	45	4	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE VI

LOCATION AND NATURE OF CYSTICERCUS BOVIS INFECTIONS

49 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered in the 12,597 cattle slaughtered in Watford. This gives an incidence rate of 0.39%.

The location of the cysts were as follows :—

	Head	Heart	Skirt	Carcase
Viable cysts	11	1	0	0
Degenerate cysts	8	33	1	0

The cysts in 12 cases (24.48%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin.

TABLE VII

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD

No.	Section	Alleged Offence	Result	Fines	Costs payable by Defendant
1	2	Mouldy sliced loaf	Conviction	£30	-
2	2	Contaminated milk	Dismissed	-	-
3	2	Mouldy cakes	Conviction	£50	£12
4	13	Meat carried in dirty vehicle (owner (driver	Conviction Conviction	£50) £25)	£8
5	2	Sour roast beef	Conviction	£25	£4
6	2	Mouldy sausages	Conviction	£50	-
7	2	Mouldy meat paste	Conviction	£25	£4
8	2	Insect in milk	Conviction	£100	£4
9	2	Steel bolt in pork pie	Conviction	£20	£13
10	2	Metal in potato fritters	Conviction	£30	-
11	2	Glass in potato chips	Conviction	£15	-
12	2	Plastic material in meat pie	Conviction	£30	£12

TABLE VIII
OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963
Registration of Premises

	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Registered Premises	No. of persons employed
Offices	24	534	9,538
Retail Shops	48	730	5,449
Wholesale shops and Warehouses	2	61	787
Catering establishments and canteens	1	78	987
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	1	6
TOTALS	75	1,404	16,767
8,079 males and 8,688 females			

TABLE IX
OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963
Infringements of Act in 566 premises inspected during 1973

Uncleanly condition of premises	..	..	..	..	24
Inadequate provision for maintaining reasonable temperature	..	..	..	..	6
Unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences or washing facilities	..	..	..	..	27
Defective condition of floors or stairs	..	..	..	..	33
Inadequate fencing of dangerous parts of machinery	..	..	..	..	6
Inadequate first aid equipment	..	..	..	..	28
Other matters	..	..	..	..	79
					<u>203</u>

TABLE X
ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS NOTIFIED DURING 1973

Machinery	..	..	..	..	..	2
Falls of persons	..	..	..	..	..	14
Stepping on or striking against objects or person	..	..	..	..	..	10
Handling of goods	..	..	..	..	..	9
Struck by falling object	..	..	..	..	..	4
Use of hand tools	..	..	..	..	..	2
Not otherwise specified	..	..	..	..	..	6
						<u>47</u>

TABLE XI(i)
FACTORIES ACT 1961

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. INSPECTIONS				
Factories in which Sections 1, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	12	13	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	462	89	1	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	25	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	500	127	1	Nil
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				
Sanitary conveniences (Section 7) Defective	1	1	Nil	1

TABLE XI(ii)
OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list notified to Local Authority
Wearing apparel (Making, alterations, etc.)	28
Artificial flowers	2
Christmas crackers etc.	34
TOTAL	64
There were two cases of default in sending lists of outworkers as required by Section 133(i)(c).	

TABLE XII
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

1.	Number of properties in district	..	..	..	..	..	35,000
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	..	..	..	..	..	589
	(b) Number infested by :—						
	(i) Rats	..	..	..	..	..	143
	(ii) Mice	..	..	..	..	..	242

[illegible]